

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SSM-03 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 /053 W

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R 231545Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6319

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMCONSUL PORT SAID

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 11306

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJ: PROPOSED US SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATES IN PEOPLES ASSEMBLY
ELECTIONS

1. YAHYA MUSTAFA KHALIL, WHO EXPECTS TO BE CANDIDATE FOR
PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN KAFR ASH-SHUK DISTRICT AGAINST
LEADER OF LEFTIST ORGANIZATION KHALID MUHI AL-DIN, CALLED
ON POLCOUNTS AUGUST 19. KHALIL IS PURPORTEDLY BROTHER-IN -LAW
OF DR. MUSTAFA KHALIL, FIRST SECRETARY OF ASU, MEMBER OF PRE-
1952 PARLIAMENT AND RECENTLY RETIRED FROM MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AT AGO 60. HE PORTRAYED COMING ELECTIONS IN TERMS
OF COMMUNISM VERSUS DEMOCRACY WITH OBVIOUS REGIONAL AND WORLD-
WIDE IMPORTANCE. HE FELT THAT OUTCOME OF HIS CONTEST WITH
MUHI AL-DIN WOULD HAVE PARTICULAR COUNTRY-WIDE SIGNIFICANCE.
HE CLAIMED "COMMUNISTS" ARE WELL-ORGANIZED AND FINANCED AND THAT
HIS CHANGE OF BEING ELECTED WOULD DEPEND ON ABILITY TO FINANCE
EGYPTIAN-STYLE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THIS WOULD REQUIRE
LARGE EXPENSES FOR CARS AND DRIVERS, LARGE AMOUNTS OF
FOOD AND DRINK FOR ALL WHO CALL ON CANDIDATE, BAKSHISH
FOR THOSE ROUGHLY 20 PERCENT OF VOTERS WHOSE VOTES ARE
FOR SALE TO HIGHEST BIDDERS AND SMALL SUMS TO THOSE KEY
PERSONS WHOM IT IS IMPORTANT TO PREVENT SPREADING MALICIOUS

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GOSSIP ABOUT ONE'S CANDIDATURE, I.E., LOCAL BARBERS AND

READERS OF THE KORAN.

2. WHILE KHALIL MADE NO DIRECT REQUEST FOR US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, THIS WAS CLEARLY THE MAIN INTENT OF HIS CALL. POLCOUNS GAVE NO INDICATION OF HAVING UNDERSTOOD THE HINT AND ONLY AGREED TO KHALIL'S SUGGESTION THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING HOW HIS CAMPAIGN PROGRESSES. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT WE WILL BE RECEIVING MORE SUCH CALLERS AS ELECTION DRAWS NEAR AND PROBABLY SOME DIRECT REQUESTS FOR US SUPPORT. WE INTEND TO TAKE POSITION VERY STRONGLY THAT US SUPPORTING NO RPT NO CANDIDATE AND WOULD CONSIDER FINANCIAL OR OTHER SUPPORT AS INTERFERENCE IN EGYPTIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
EILTS

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NNN

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